

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 AGR-05 RSC-01 /029 W

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R 061405Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1945

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FROM AMCONSULATE ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EG

SUBJECT: MOISTURE DAMAGE TO WHEAT ON ALEXANDRIA DOCKS

REF STATE 23181

1. MASTER OF SS MARYLAND TRADER BELIEVES THAT PROBABLY TEN PERCENT AND POSSIBLY UP TO TWENTY PERCENT OF HIS CARGO SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY RAIN ONCE IT REACHED DOCK IN ALEXANDRIA. HE ASSUMES OTHER WHEAT SHIPMENTS SUBJECTED TO SIMILAR LOCAL SPOILAGE RATE. PROTECTIVE FACILITIES ON OPEN ALEXANDRIA WHEAT QUAYS ARE MINIMAL, CONSISTING OF INADEQUATE NUMBER OF TARPAULINS WHICH, OFTEN AS NOT, ARE IMPROPERLY UTILIZED. WITH ALMOST DAILY RAINS SINCE LATE NOVEMBER (UNTIL MARCH), TRADER MASTER ESTIMATES THAT SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF WHEAT WILL HAVE SPROUTED BEFORE ARRIVING TO CONSUMERS. HE CONTRASTS ALEXANDRIA WHEAT HANDLING AND STORAGE PROCEDURES UNFAVORABLY WITH PREVAILING PRACTICES IN INDIA OR PAKISTAN. HE ALSO CITES THE IRONY OF HAVING OBSERVED SUCH RIGID STANDARDS AGAINST ANY MOISTURE IN SHIP'S TANKS WHILE UNLOADING WHEAT IN US PORTS ONLY TO SEE HIS CARGO TURN TO PORRIDGE WHEN IF OFFLOADED IN ALEXANDRIA.

2. EGYPTIAN PORT OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF UNSATISFACTORY WHEAT HANDLING SITUATION. LONGER RANGE PORT DEVELOPMENT PLANS PRESUMABLY OFFER HOPE OF EVENTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

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FOR FROESEEABLE FUTURE, HOWEVER, LOCAL OFFICIALS SEEM

HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO LIVING WITH CURRENT CONDITIONS.

3. CONGEN SUGGESTS THAT WHEAT HANDLING AND STORAGE PROCEDURES
MAY BE SUITABLE SUBJECT TO INCLUDE ON AGENDA OF APPROPRIATE
JOINT WORKING GROUP.

4. STATE 23181 RECEIVED AFTER DRAFTING ABOVE. IF TIME
PERMITS, WOULD HOPE STERNER COULD VISIT ALEXANDRIA IN
CONNECTION STUDIES OF GRAIN STORAGE PROJECT DISCUSSED IN
PARA 6. SIGNED CHASE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Status: NATIVE
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